



Merriam- Webster's Collegiate® Dictionary

TENTH EDITION

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diethyl ether • digenetic 323

tered in the form of its crystalline citrate $C_{10}H_{21}N_3O \cdot C_6H_5O_2$ esp. to control human filariasis and large roundworms in dogs and cats

diethyl ether \di'ē-thäl' \ n (ca. 1930) : ETHER 3a

diethyl-stil-bes-trol \stil'-bes-trol, -trö'l \ n [ISV] (1938) : a colorless crystalline synthetic compound $C_8H_{10}O_2$ used as a potent estrogen but contraindicated in pregnancy for its tendency to cause cancer or birth defects in offspring — called also *stilbestrol*

diethyl zinc *n* (1952) : a volatile pyrophoric liquid organometallic compound C_4H_9Zn used esp. to catalyze polymerization reactions and to decolorify paper

di-e-ti-tian \di-e-ti-tshän \ n [diettitian irreg. fr. 'diēt + -tian' (ca. 1846) : a specialist in dietetics

di-fér \di-fär' \ v [differed] : differ-ing \-fär-ing \ [ME, fr. MF or L: *différer* to postpone, be different, fr. *L differe*, fr. *dis- + ferre* to carry — more at BEAR] (14c) 1 a : to be unlike or distinct in nature, form, or characteristics (the law of one state ~s from that of another) b : to change from time to time or from one instance to another : VARY (the number of cookies in a box may ~) 2 : to be of unlike or opposite opinion : DISAGREE (they ~ on religious matters)

di-fé-ren-*ce* \di-fär-əns \ n (14c) 1 a : the quality or state of being different b : an instance of differing in nature, form, or quality *o* *archaic* : a characteristic that distinguishes one from another or from the average d : the element or factor that separates or distinguishes contrasting situations 2 : distinction or discrimination in preference 3 a : disagreement in opinion : DISSENTION b : an instance or cause of disagreement 4 : the degree or amount by which things differ in quantity or measure; *specif* : REMAINDER 2b(1) 5 : a significant change in or effect on a situation

di-fé-ren-*ced* \-fēnd \ -enc-ing (1576) : DIFFERENTIATE, DISTINGUISH

di-fé-ren-tial \di-fär-tē'nl, -di-fär-tēnl \ adj [MF, fr. L *different-*, *differens*, pp. of *differe*] (14c) 1 : partly or totally unlike in nature, form, or quality : DISSIMILAR (could hardly be more ~) — often followed by *from* than, or chiefly Brit. to (small, near, hand, very ~ from the captain's tottery characters — R. L. Stevenson) *vastly* ~ in size than it was twenty-five years ago — N. M. Pusey) *a* very ~ situation to the ... one under which we live —Sir Winston Churchill) 2 *not the same as* b: DISTINCT (~ age groups) b: VARIOUS (~ members of the class) c: ANOTHER (switched to a ~ TV program) 3 : UNUSUAL, SPECIAL (she was ~ and superior) *o* *diff-er-ent-ness* *n*

SYN DIFFERENT, DIVERSE, DIVERGENT, DISPARATE, VARIOUS mean unlike in kind or character. DIFFERENT may imply little more than separateness but it may also imply contrast or contrariness (*different foods*). DIVERSE implies both distinctness and marked contrast (such diverse interests as dancing and football). DIVERGENT implies movement away from each other and unlikelihood of ultimate meeting or reconciliation (went on to pursue *divergent* careers). DISPARATE emphasizes incongruity or incompatibility (*disparate* notions of freedom). VARIOUS stresses the number of sorts or kinds (*tried various methods*).

usage Numerous commentators have condemned *different* than in spite of its use since the 17th century by many of the best-known names in English literature. It is nevertheless standard and is even recommended in many handbooks when followed by a clause. *Different from*, the generally safe choice, is more common and is even used in constructions where *than* would work more smoothly.

di-fé-ren-ti-*al* \di-fär-ēn(t)-shäl \ n, pl -ti-ae, -shē, -äl \ [L, difference, fr. *different-*, *differens*] (1690) : an element, feature, or factor that distinguishes one entity, state, or class from another; esp : a characteristic trait distinguishing a species from other species of the same genus

di-fé-ren-tial \di-fär-ēn(t)-shäl \ adj (1647) 1 a : of, relating to, or constituting a difference: DISTINGUISHING b : making a distinction between individuals or classes c : based on or resulting from a difference d : functioning or proceeding differently or at a different rate 2 : being, relating to, or involving a differential or differentiation 3 a : relating to quantitative differences b : producing effects by reason of quantitative differences *o* *diff-er-ent-i-ally* \-ren(t)-shäl' \ adv

dif-feren-tial *n* (1704) 1 a : the product of the derivative of a function of one variable by the increment of the independent variable b : a sum of products in which each product consists of a partial derivative of a given function of several variables multiplied by the corresponding increment and which contains as many products as there are independent variables in the function 2 : a difference between comparable individuals or classes (a price ~); also : the amount of such a difference 3 a : DIFFERENTIAL GEAR b : a case covering a differential gear

dif-feren-tial calculus *n* (1702) : a branch of mathematics concerned chiefly with the study of the rate of change of functions with respect to their variables esp. through the use of derivatives and differentials

dif-feren-tial equation *n* (1763) : an equation containing differentials or derivatives of functions — compare PARTIAL DIFFERENTIAL EQUATION

dif-feren-tial gear *n* (ca. 1859) : an arrangement of gears forming an epicyclic train for connecting two shafts or axles in the same line, dividing the driving force equally between them, and permitting one shaft to revolve faster than the other — called also *differential gearing*

dif-feren-tial geometry *n* (ca. 1909) : a branch of mathematics using calculus to study the geometric properties of curves and surfaces

dif-fer-ent-i-*ate* \di-fär-ēn(t)-shē, -ät \ v [at-ed] -at-ing *v* (1816) 1 : to obtain the mathematical derivative of 2 : to mark or show a difference in : constitute a difference that distinguishes 3 : to develop differential characteristics in 4 : to cause differentiation of in the course of development 5 : to express the specific distinguishing qualities of : DISCRIMINATE ~ *v* 1 : to recognize or give expression to a difference 2 : to become distinct or different in character 3 : to undergo differentiation *o* *diff-er-ent-i-ble* \-ren(t)-shē, -äbəl \ adj

dif-fer-ent-i-*ation* \di-fär-ēn(t)-shē, -äshən \ n (1802) 1 : the act or process of differentiating 2 : development from the one to the many, the simple to the complex, or the homogeneous to the heterogeneous 3 : a modification of body parts for performance of particular functions b : the sum of the processes whereby apparently indifferent cells, tissues, and structures attain their adult form and function 4 : the processes by which various rock types are produced from a common magma

dif-fer-ent-i-*ally* \di-fär-ēn(t)-lē, -di-fär-ēn(t)-lē \ adv (14c) 1 : in a different

dif-fer-ent-i-*able* \de-ni-səbəl \ adj [F, lit., difficult] (1336) : STUBBORN, UNREA-SONABLE

dif-fer-ent-i-*al* \di-fär-ēnl \ adj [ME, back-formation fr. *difficult*] (14c) 1 : hard to do, make, or carry out : ARDUOUS (a ~ climb) 2 a : hard to deal with, manage, or overcome (a ~ child) b : hard to understand : PUZZLING (a ~ reading) *syn* see HARD *o* *diff-er-ent-i-ly* *adv*

dif-fer-ent-i-*ly* \-lē \ n, pl -ties [ME *difficilas*, fr. *difficilis*, fr. *difficilis* not easy, fr. *dis-* + *facilis* easy — more at FACILE] (14c) 1 : the quality or state of being difficult 2 : CONTROVERSY, DISAGREEMENT 3 : OBJECTION 4 : something difficult : IMPEDIMENT 5 : EM-BARRASSMENT, TROUBLE —usu. used in pl.

dif-fer-ence \di-fär-əns \ n, pl -den(t)s \ n (14c) : the quality or state of being different

dif-fer-ent \di-fär' \ adj, -ent \ adj [ME, fr. L *diffident*, *diffidens*, pp. of *diffidere* to distrust, fr. *dis-* + *fudere* to trust — more at BIDE] (15c) 1 : hesitant in acting or speaking through lack of self-confidence 2 : *archaic* : DISTRUSTFUL 3 : RESERVED, UNASSERTIVE *syn* see SHY *o* *diff-er-ent-ly* *adv*

dif-frac-tion \di-frak-shən \ v [back-formation fr. *diffraction*] (1803) : to cause to undergo diffraction

dif-frac-tion \di-frak-shən \ n [NL *diffraction*, *diffraction*, fr. L *diffingere* to break apart, fr. *dis-* + *frangere* to break — more at BREAK] (1671) : a modification which light undergoes in passing by the edges of opaque bodies or through narrow slits or in being reflected from ruled surfaces and in which the rays appear to be deflected and to produce fringes of parallel light and dark or colored bands; also : a similar modification of other waves (as sound waves)

diffraction grating *n* (1867) : GRATING 3

dif-frac-tom-e-*ter* \di-frak-tō-mä-tər \ n (ca. 1909) : an instrument for analyzing the structure of a usu. crystalline substance from the scattering pattern produced when a beam of radiation or particles (as X rays or neutrons) strikes it *o* *diff-frac-to-met-ric* \di-frak-tō-mē-trik \ adj

dif-fuse \di-füz \ adj [ME, fr. L *diffusus*, pp. of *diffundere* to spread out, fr. *dis-* + *fundere* to pour — more at FOUND] (15c) 1 : being at once verbose and ill-organized 2 : not concentrated or localized (as sclerosis) *syn* see WORDY *o* *diffuse-ly* *adv* — *diffuse-ness* *n*

dif-fuse \di-füz \ v [di-füz] *vi* (14c) 1 a : to pour out and permit or cause to spread freely b : EXTEND, SCATTER c : to spread thinly or wastefully 2 : to subject to diffusion esp. to break up and distribute (incident light) by reflection ~ *v* 1 : to spread out or become (transmitted light) by contact 2 : to undergo diffusion *o* *diffusible* \di-füzə-bəl \ adj

dif-fuse-*po-rous* \di-füz'pōrəs, -pōr \ adj [diffus] (ca. 1902) : having vessels more or less evenly distributed throughout an annual ring and not varying greatly in size — compare RING-POROUS

dif-fuse-*er* \di-füz'är \ n (ca. 1679) 1 : one that diffuses: as a device (as a reflector) for distributing the light of a lamp evenly b : a screen (as of cloth or frosted glass) for softening lighting (as in photography) c : a device (as slats at different angles) for deflecting air from an outlet in various directions 2 : a device for reducing the velocity and increasing the static pressure of a fluid passing through a system

dif-fu-sion \di-fü-zhən \ n (14c) 1 : the action of diffusing: the state of being diffused 2 : PROLIFERITY, DIFFUSIVENESS 3 a : the process whereby particles of liquids, gases, or solids intermingle as the result of their spontaneous movement caused by thermal agitation and in dissolved substances move from a region of higher to one of lower concentration b : (1) : reflection of light by a rough reflecting surface (2) : transmission of light through a translucent material c : SCATTERING 4 : the spread of cultural elements from one area or group of people to others by contact 5 : the softening of sharp outlines in a photographic image *o* *diffusion-*al** \di-fü-zhə-nl \ adj

dif-fu-sion-ist \di-fü-zhə-nist \ n (1938) : an anthropologist who emphasizes the role of diffusion in the history of culture rather than independent invention or discovery *o* *diffusion-*ism** \di-fü-zhə-nizm \ adj

dif-fus-ive \di-fü-siv, -ziv \ adj (1614) : tending to diffuse: characterized by diffusion (~ motion of atoms) *o* *diffusively* *adv* — *diffus-ive-ness* *n* *o* *diffus-iv-ity* \di-fü-siv-tē \ n [di-fün(k)-shnel, -shē-nl \ adj (1943) : of, relating to, or being a compound with two highly reactive sites in each molecule

dig \di-g \ v [dig, dug, *dog*] *digging* [ME *diggen*] (13c) 1 a : to break up, turn, or loosen (earth) with an implement b : to prepare the soil of (as a garden) 2 a : to bring to the surface by digging b : to turn up or bring to light or out of hiding (~ up facts) 3 : to hollow out or form by removing earth: EXCAVATE 4 : to drive down so as to penetrate: THRUST 5 : POKE, PROD 6 a : to pay attention to: NOTICE (~ that fancy hat) b : to UNDERSTAND, APPRECIATE (if you ~ do something subtle, only one tenth of the audience will ~ it — Nat Hentoff) c : LIKE, ADMIRE (high school students ~ short poetry — David Burnster) ~ *v* 1 : to turn up, loosen, or remove earth *o* *delve* 2 : to work hard or laboriously 3 : to advance by or as if by removing or pushing aside material

dig \di-g \ n (1819) 1 a : THRUST, POKE b : a cutting remark 2 *pl* a : living accommodations *o* *chiefly Brit* : LODGING, HOTEL 3 : an archaeological excavation site *o* : the excavation itself

dig-a-my \di-gä-mē \ n, pl -mies [L: *digamia*; fr. LGk, fr. Gk *digamē* married to two people; fr. *di-* + *gamē* = *gamous*] (1635) : a second marriage after the termination of the first

dig-a-stri-cic \di-gas-trik \ adj [NL *digastricus*, fr. *di-* + *gaster* *gastic*] (ca. 1721) : of, relating to, or being a muscle with two bellies separated by a median tendon

dig-ne-*tic* \di-jē-nitik \ adj [NL *Digenetica*, subclasse name (syn. of *Digenaea*), fr. *di-* + *genetica*, neut. pl. of *geneticus* genetic] (ca. 1883) : of or relating to a subclass (*Digenaea*) of trematode worms in which sexual reproduction as an internal parasite of a vertebrate alternates with asexual reproduction in a mollusk

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